

Why Organize Your Neighborhood?

1. A unified neighborhood is a strong force in maintaining healthy communities.
2. Neighborhood organizations bring together people of diverse backgrounds, with common concerns for safety, properties, homes and community interests.
3. Neighborhood organizations help City staff and elected officials identify and resolve issues and concerns.
4. There is strength in numbers – having a unified voice can make a difference.

Neighborhoods usually organize to:

- Build a sense of community among neighbors.
- Address a particular issue of the neighborhood.
- Empower residents to work together in improving their neighborhood.
- Have a party in August for National Night Out.

Other Resources

win

Wichita Independent Neighborhoods, Inc.
1150 N Broadway, Suite 101
Wichita, KS 67214
Phone 260-8000 Fax 264-9965
WIN@midtowncnc.org

What about bylaws?

They are important because they govern the rules of procedure for your group including voting, membership, frequency of meetings, organization and duties of officers.



Neighborhood Assistants Can Help in all Council Districts

District 1

Virdena Gilkey, Neighborhood Asst
Atwater Neighborhood City Hall
2755 E. 19th Street
Wichita, KS 67214
Email: vgilkey@wichita.gov
Phone: 316-303-8017

District 2

LaShonda Porter, Neighborhood Asst
City Manager's Office, City Hall
13th Floor
455 N. Main
Wichita, KS 67202
Email: lporter@wichita.gov
Phone: 316-268-4351

District 3

(vacant)
Colvin Neighborhood City Hall
2820 S. Roosevelt
Wichita, KS 67210
Email:
Phone: 316-303-8029

District 4

Kelli Glassman, Neighborhood Asst
Stanley/Aley Neighborhood City Hall
1749 S. Martinson
Wichita, KS 67213
Email: kglassman@wichita.gov
Phone: 316-303-8008

District 5

Dana Brown, Neighborhood Asst
City Manager's Office, City Hall
13th Floor
455 N. Main
Wichita, KS 67202
Email: dlbrown@wichita.gov
Phone: 316-268-4351

District 6

Terri Dozal, Neighborhood Asst
Evergreen Neighborhood City Hall
2700 N. Woodland
Wichita, KS 67204
Email: tdozal@wichita.gov
Phone: 316-303-8042

Forming A Neighborhood Organization



"I am satisfied the good sense of the people is the strongest army our government can ever have, and that it will not fail them." -- Thomas Jefferson, 1786

Four Steps To Organize Your Neighborhood



Neighbors working together can solve many problems and make their area better.

► Step 1

An issue or problem usually provides the rallying point for a group of neighbors to come together with the idea of forming a Neighborhood Association.

A definite concern and a specific agenda for the first planning meeting will produce results better than talking about vague concerns for neighborhood improvement.

► Step 2

In preparation—Discuss the issue or concern with a few neighbors, find out if your concern is shared;

Discuss each person's idea of the problems, needs and concerns of the neighborhood. Is there an existing neighborhood association;

Determine the boundaries of your neighborhood and choose a temporary chairperson.

► Step 3

Plan on having a larger, planning meeting to announce the formation of your group to everyone within the neighborhood boundaries and receive input on a broader basis.

► Step 4

Holding the First Meeting:

- Arrange for the use of a church meeting room, school or community center.
- Prepare an informative flyer that states the time, place, date and purpose of the meeting.
- The core group should personally distribute flyers throughout the neighborhood. Talk about the needs of the neighborhood and what citizens can accomplish.
- Have a sign in sheet for attendees, ask for name, address and email address.
- Follow a prepared agenda and give everyone present a chance to speak. If citizens present several issues try to prioritize them.
- Establish a few committees — develop bylaws, the general rules that govern the group; a steering committee to develop the slate of officers and conduct the election; and finally one to set programs for the future meetings.
- Serve refreshments if desired.
- Set the date and time for the following meeting before everyone leaves.



A well run meeting can accomplish a lot, organization is the key.

Meeting Tips

- Most groups meet once a month; it's a good idea to set a regular time like the third Thursday of every month.
- Plan your agenda before the meeting and post it in the meeting room. Copies can be made available to those attending.
- Include these items in your agenda—minutes of the previous meeting; correspondence; committee reports; new projects; announcements; adjournment.
- Notify the Neighbors Section of the Wichita Eagle two weeks prior to

***Get to know your neighbors and make a difference in your neighborhood by supporting your neighborhood association.**



City of Wichita